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BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

❖ 1937. ❖

BEWDLEY:

TOLLEY'S PRINTING WORKS (REG. L. MILLER).



BEWDLEY,

MAY 30th, 1938.

To the Town Council of Bewdley

GENTLEMEN,

General
Statistics.

My report for the year 1937 is an Ordinary Report in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health.

The area of the district is 3,757 acres.

The population is estimated by the Registrar General as 4,271.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1937 was 1,174.

The rateable value of the district on April 1st, 1937, was £16,937.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £63/10/6.

The social conditions remain as before.

There was a good deal of unemployment among the workers in the factories in Kidderminster during the latter part of the year, but this did not appear to affect the health of the district in any way.

Vital Statistics.	Total			M.	F.	
	Live	Legitimate	72	34	38	
	Births	Illegitimate	2	—	2	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 17·3
	Still Births	Legitimate	2	1	1	
						Rate per 1,000 (live and still births), 26·3
	Deaths		56	26	30	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13·1
	Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List)					.. 0
	Death rate of Infants under one year of age :					
	All Infants per 1,000 live births					.. .. 108
	Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. .. .					.. .. 111

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live							
births ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
„ Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

The Birth Rate for England and Wales was 14·9 per 1,000 of the population.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 12·4 per 1,000 of the population.

Health Services.

There have been no alterations in these during the year.

Sanitary Circumstances of District.

1. WATER

The Water Supply has remained very satisfactory. It has been regularly tested and presumed of first rate quality. Three houses with deficient water supply have been dealt with during the year.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The proposed joint sewerage scheme has made very little progress in the last two years, and the position is steadily becoming worse, as more new houses are continually being erected, all of which, at any rate in the parish of Wribbenhall, have, for the present, to be supplied with dumb-wells.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS

The pollution of the river Severn is steadily increasing, and this will continue until the district is properly sewered.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

37 new Water Closets were put in during the year.

The number of privy middens and earth or pail closets in use at the end of the year was the same as last year, namely 108 and 244.

5. REFUSE TIPS

Repeated complaints have been received with regard to rats on the two Corporation Tips. Two Official Rat Catchers were employed, and the nuisance was considerably abated. Both these tips have now been given up, and a site found one and a half miles from the centre of the town and far from any dwelling house.

6. SCHOOLS

The sanitary condition and water supply of the Schools are satisfactory.

The Wyre Hill Infants' School was closed from January 6th to 29th; the Lax Lane Mixed School from February 8th to 19th; the Lax Lane Infants' Department from January 25th to February 19th; and the Wribbenhall Junior School from January 22nd to February 19th—all on account of an outbreak of Measles.

Housing. During the year 8 houses have been erected by the Local Authority and 18 by private enterprise.

SLUM CLEARANCE

A Ministry of Health Inquiry was held on May 4th, 1937. Four areas, consisting of 18 houses and 17 families, were considered.

In each case the Ministry have agreed for the families to be removed into new houses, and the full grant paid.

In the case of seven houses in Westbourne Street the Ministry have instructed the Council to allow the owners to submit a scheme of reconstruction, after the present tenants have been removed, owing to the fact that the houses are considered of some artistic and historical interest and should be preserved if possible.

At a Council meeting held on June 14th, 9 houses were considered as Individual Unfits under Section II of the Housing Act 1936. In each case an Order was made for demolition or for the houses to be vacated.

On the Bark Hill Housing Site 25 houses are being built for Slum Clearance purposes, and 35 for alleviation of overcrowding. These houses should be ready in August 1938.

Housing
Statistics.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:

- | | | |
|---------|--|-----|
| (1) (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 164 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for that purpose | 243 |
| (2) (a) | Number of dwelling houses (included under Subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 .. | 73 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for that purpose | 102 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 2 |
| (4) | Number of dwelling houses (inclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. | 87 |

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	76
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936 .. Nil
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. 161
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
- (a) By owners .. 150
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936 :
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. 9
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. 2
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 .. Nil

4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding:

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. 46
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein 47
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 287
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. Nil
- (c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. Nil
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

Eradication of Bed Bugs.	Number of houses found to be infested:—			
	(a) Council Houses	..	..	.. Nil
	(b) Other Houses	..	..	.. 2

Number of houses disinfected:—

(a) Council Houses	..	..	.. Nil
(b) Other Houses	..	..	.. 2

In each case the plaster was stripped, skirting boards removed, and walls sprayed with "Clyman."

Old bedding and articles were burnt.

Camping Sites. There are eight main camping grounds in the district, and in each case the Town Water is laid on, and sufficient sanitary accommodation is provided. On the August Bank-holiday there were 601 tents and 17 caravans in the various camps, one camp alone had 202 tents. Acting on the suggestion of the Sanitary Inspector, the Council propose to ask the owners of camp sites to provide Wardens to see that the camps are properly conducted.

Milk. There are 20 registered dairy farms in the district, and 20 retailers. There are approximately 182 milking cows in the district.

Food and Meat. There are two registered and two licensed slaughter-houses in the district. These are regularly inspected. 18 inspections were made during the year, and four defects found.

The carcase of one pig was seized as unfit for human consumption, and ordered to be destroyed. 9 cattle, 4 sows, 4 calves, 19 sheep and lambs and 3 pigs were inspected.

Factories and Workshops.	The Sanitary Inspector reports as follows:			
	Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
	Factories	17	None	None
	Workshops	9	None	None
	Workplaces	None	None	None
	Total	.. 26	None	None

Defects found in Factories and Workshops :—

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	9	9
Want of Ventilation	—	—
Other Nuisances	5	5
Sanitary Accommodation unsuitable or defective	1	1
Total ..	15	15

Infectious
Diseases.

There was a considerable outbreak of Measles in the first two months of the year, on account of which the Schools had to be closed, as detailed in a previous part of this report.

No death was attributed to the disease, which is an indication that the nursing of cases of Measles is much better than it used to be, especially as the outbreak occurred in the winter time. Some years ago Measles was popularly regarded as a comparatively mild children's complaint, and it was not very unusual to see children in the street with the rash out on them, with the result that deaths from subsequent other troubles were far from uncommon.

Now the cases are recognised early and nursed properly, with very satisfactory results.

The cases of notifiable infectious disease during the year are set out in the following table :

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	8	2	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil	Nil
Paratyphoid	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia	6	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	Nil
Erysipelas	1	Nil	Nil

Tuberculosis

There were only five cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year, 2 males, aged 58 and 21, and 3 females, aged 35, 59, and 21 respectively.

One case of Tuberculosis of the abdomen was notified, a male aged 1 year.

There was one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis a male aged 55.

The Sanitary Inspector has furnished me with a classified list of Inspections made by him during the year:—

House Inspection	..	..	243
Factories and Workshops	..	..	26
Infectious Disease	..	..	15
Smoke Nuisance	..	..	0
Offensive Trades	..	..	0
Slaughter Houses	..	..	18
Nuisances	..	..	195
Tenement Houses	..	..	4
Lodging Houses (none in Borough)			0
Dairies and Cowsheds		..	15
Total	..		<u>516</u>

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

U. W. N. MILES,

Medical Officer of Health.

